

## For Immediate Release

News Contact: Barbara Phillips  
732-537-6044 or [barbara.phillips@nj.nrcs.usda.gov](mailto:barbara.phillips@nj.nrcs.usda.gov)

### Informational Meetings for New Conservation Security Program

January 20, 2005— State Conservationist Tony Kramer announced that USDA, Natural Resources Conservation (NRCS) will conduct four informational meetings in mid-February in the Cohansey-Maurice Watershed to assist applicants in their preparation for the 2005 sign-up for the new Conservation Security Program (CSP). Agricultural producers in that New Jersey watershed may qualify for CSP payments by applying and documenting high levels of on-farm conservation and management. "The Conservation Security Program provides an opportunity for farmers who have been practicing conservation to receive Farm Bill benefits," Kramer said. CSP payments may be as high as \$45,000 annually.

The Cohansey-Maurice Watershed was selected to initiate the program in New Jersey for 2005. One additional watershed in the State will become eligible each year until the entire state has had the opportunity to participate. "In a state as densely populated as New Jersey, it is even more important to ensure that our soil is healthy and our water and air are clean," said New Jersey Agriculture Secretary Charles M. Kuperus. "The Natural Resources Conservation Service meetings will provide New Jersey farmers with the information to make the most of the financial and technical assistance offered by the Conservation Security Program."

Afternoon and evening meetings will be held in Cape May Court House, Millville, Clayton, and Woodstown: Wednesday, February 16th at 1:00 p.m. at the Cape May County Extension Office, 4 Moore Rd., Cape May C.H., NJ 08210 phone: (609) 465-5115; Wednesday, February 16th at 7:00 p.m. at Cumberland County Extension Office, 291 Morton Ave., Millville, NJ 08332 phone: (856) 451-2800; Thursday, February 17th at 1:00 p.m. at Gloucester County Extension Office, 1200 N. Delsea Drive, Clayton, NJ 08312 phone: (856) 307-6450 and Thursday, February 17th at 7:00 p.m. at The Ware Building, Salem County Extension Office / USDA Service Center, 51 Cheney Rd., Woodstown, NJ 08098 phone: (856) 769-1126 x 3 or (856) 769-0090.

NRCS offices that serve the Cohansey-Maurice Watershed are:

- Woodstown - serving Gloucester and Salem: (856) 769-1126 ext. 3
- Vineland - serving Atlantic, Cape May, and Cumberland: (856) 205-1225 ext. 3

More information about CSP is available online at [www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov).

#

---

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.